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- 1. It may be said that at the present time all farmers have been herded into collective farms. Former estates have been converted into sovkhozy (state farms), whose administrators and workers receive a monthly/salary of a fixed amount. In many respects conditions on the sovkhozy are even worse than on the kolkhozy. Few persons appear to do any work there and, for all practical purposes, they simply walk around. During the winter of 1950-1951, many horses died in the kolkhozy, but an even greater number died in the sovkhozy. Because of the shortage of feed, horses on the sovkhozy were fed all winter on a mixture of straw and hay.
- 2. The authorities have been attempting to carry out a program of enlarging kolkhozy by combining several into one giant kolkhoz. Not being able to build enough housing and other buildings necessary to concentrate the enlarged kolkhoz in one center, the authorities have created a situation where very often a farmer may be assigned to work 8 to 12 kilometers away from his home. He must travel this distance four times a day, since nearly all farmers eat their meals at home. Only those who work on newly-built kolkhozy, latifundialike agricultural estates, are fed from a common kettle. In the Norkaiciai village kolkhoz, Taurage Raion, which includes over 6,000 hectares, farmers have to travel as much as 1/8 kilometers daily with horses and agricultural implements. There was the case of the Siauliai Oblast, Kursenai Raion, where separate farmhouses were moved into the kolkhoz center on special platforms. But this was a single, atypical instance of such measures, although the Soviet press hailed it as a "victory of historical significance."
- 3. Compensation for days worked during the year is paid out after the harvest has been threshed. In order to make certain that government interests do not suffer, i.e., to prevent pilfering by individual farmers, as of fall 1950 the kolkhozy were forbidden to do their own threshing. All harvests must be brought

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directly from the fields to threshing centers operated under the supervision of agents of the Ministry of Agriculture (Paruosu Ministerija). There are offices of the Agriculture Ministry in every raion town. After the grain is threshed, the Ministry agents determine what proportion must be taken to the government warehouses and what can be given to the kolkhor for payment of the workers. The agent of the Ministry generally allots to the kolkhoz only enough grain to supply the worker, who has been working the entire year, with grain for eight or nine months. The worker then must buy the rest on the market, paying from 150 to 250 rubles a centner for grain which the government, in taking it away from the kolkhoz, paid for at the rate of 5 rubles per centner. The intent of this policy seems to be to keep the farmer in ever-increasing debt in order to tie him down to the kolkhoz more effectively.

- 4. Both in the fall and spring, large stretches of soil are left unplowed, because the old, newly painted tractors brought to the machine tractor stations from Russia are under repair more frequently than in use. Since the raions do not have any spare parts, these must be ordered from Minsk or Vilnius, and it generally takes about half a year for parts to arrive from there. Tractor operators frequently must cast worn or broken parts themselves. It does not have to send the tractors to the general tractor factory in Minsk or to the Vilnius repair factory, since they return from there only after a year or a year and a half.
- 5. The work of plowing is also Mampered by the uneven distribution of fuel. Such fuel is received through the raion Apkom; but, since the amount distributed at the official price is very small, two-thirds of all fuel, including that used by the machine tractor stations, must be purchased at the commercial price, which is higher.
- 6. Assigned to the larger kolkhozy and sovkhozy are five or six well-armed <u>istratitali</u> (locally known as <u>stribai</u>), whose duty it is to guard government property from the partisans.
- 7. Every year about the month of May, everyone has to sign for a loan to the sovernment in the amount of one month's wages. This signing of loans has been in force since 1940, but until now there has been no talk of repayment. It is said that the loans will be repaid "after America's fascism has been destroyed." As the bolkhoz workers do not have anything, bargaining between them and the loan collectors sometimes lasts for weeks. Everyone must sign for a loan and for not less than 100 rubles. Anyone who does not sign is denounced as a traitor and an enemy of the country and, so argue the loan collectors, cannot be allowed to live freely.
- 8. The forests of Lithuania are being very rapidly descrived. In the area around Klaipeda, near Viesvile, not only have the trees been out but the bushes uprooted. All kolkhoz workers must participate in the cutting of the forests. Anyone who does not fulfill his quota receives no fuel. The quota which has been out is either experied raw or processed into lumber and sent to Russia. The Kaunas Euilding Trust is manufacturing barracks which are being sent to the Volga Canal construction site. In carriing out the forestry work, signs are posted saying: "We are fulfilling the Five-Year Plan for forest outling. Long live Lithuania's forests." If the destruction of the forests is carried on in the present form, in a few years there will be no Lithuanian forests. It should be noted that there are many factories which use wood instead of coal for fuel. For example, the Radviliskis (55-49N, 23-33E) Glass Factory daily burns up 87 u. m. of wood, which the farmers must bring in from 10 to 50 kilometers away.